



## **Iowa Great Places**

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For all other questions, please contact Iowa Great Places Coordinator:

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Program FAQ

**1. Who serves on the Iowa Great Places Citizen Advisory Board?**

The Iowa Great Places Citizen Advisory Board consists of twelve members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Iowa Senate who perform a public function on behalf of the State. The Board includes local government officials, representatives of cities and counties and cultural leaders and meets regularly to provide advice on the Great Places program and to review and recommend proposals for funding. A list of current Citizen Advisory Board members can be found on the Great Places [website](#).

**2. Who administers the Iowa Great Places program?**

The Iowa Arts Council, a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, administers Iowa Great Places. The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs oversees the program per Iowa Code.

**3. What does the Iowa Great Place designation mean?**

Communities and regions designated as an Iowa Great Place join a select group of 31 communities and regions currently awarded Iowa Great Places status. Iowa Great Places designation may be used in marketing and collateral materials, signage and advertising and as a point of civic pride and identity. Iowa Great Places designation remains in effect beyond the grant funding period.

Eligibility & Review FAQ

**4. Are previously designated Iowa Great Places eligible to apply?**

Lead applicants representing a previously designated Iowa Great Place and who remain within their three-year period of eligibility to seek grant funding for related projects are eligible to apply.

**5. My community/region has already been designated an Iowa Great Place, but I am a different lead applicant with different projects. Am I eligible to apply?**

A different lead applicant may not seek the Great Places designation and grant funding on behalf of a community or region previously designated an Iowa Great Place.

More specific questions concerning eligibility to apply should be directed to the program coordinator.

**6. Who will review my application?**

Staff will initially review both submitted Letters of Intent and full proposals for completion, eligibility and adherence to published guidelines. Eligible proposals will be referred to a competitive review by the Iowa Great Places Citizens' Advisory Board.

### **7. How will my application be scored?**

A scoring rubric with corresponding review criteria will be made available to applicants invited to submit a full application.

As summarized in the Request for Letters of Intent, Iowa Great Places will favor proposals that exemplify bold thought and innovation; encourage creativity and entrepreneurship; foster a sense of place and identity; and demonstrate a commitment to enhancing community vitality and quality of life.

### **8. Are geographic location within Iowa or community size part of the review criteria?**

Geographic location within Iowa and community size are not part of the review criteria; however, Iowa Great Places maintains a goal of supporting the broadest possible array of communities.

### Funding FAQ

### **9. What is the funding period?**

The funding period extends three consecutive years beyond the date that a lead applicant successfully designated as an Iowa Great Place executes a grant agreement with the State of Iowa.

### **10. Is there a minimum or maximum grant award or grant award range?**

Iowa Great Places does not specify a request amount range for projects; grant awards will be made on a case-by-case basis. From FY2006 – FY2014, Iowa Great Places made grant awards for individual projects ranging from \$3,000 to \$571,000. The average grant award to a project was \$159,000 and the median grant was \$95,000.

### **11. Is there a matching funds requirement?**

Yes. Up to one-half (50%) of the total project cost may be requested from Iowa Great Places. This means that for every \$1 of grant funding requested, \$0.50 of applicant match is required. Of the applicant match, at least 75% must be cash; up to 25% may be obtained from in-kind sources.

While the minimum match requirement is 50%, competitive proposals will demonstrate broad-based community support for their project(s). The match requirement may be raised through a combination of public and private sources. Competitive proposals will demonstrate that public funding sources have been adequately leveraged to obtain private dollars.

### **12. Will all applicants receive some funding?**

The decision to fund applications, in full or part, is at the discretion of the Iowa Great Places Citizens' Advisory Board and the Director of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. Application to the program does not guarantee designation as an Iowa Great Place, a minimum funding level or funding awarded beyond the FY2015 (July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015) round.

**13. Who makes the final funding decision?**

Following a competitive review of eligible proposals, the Iowa Great Places Citizen Advisory Board will submit their funding recommendations to the Director of the Department of Cultural Affairs for consideration and funding approval. All funding decisions are final.

**14. How are grant funds disbursed?**

Grant funds are disbursed on a reimbursement basis, meaning after expenses have been incurred, for project activities submitted and approved in the final application and project plan. The lead applicant awarded Great Places funds is required to submit regular reports to receive reimbursement.

**15. Once designated as an Iowa Great Place and awarded grant funding, can the lead applicant submit related projects for grant funding in future cycles?**

For the FY2015 round, only those lead applicants representing an Iowa Great Place who remain within their three-year period of eligibility for grant funding may seek additional grant funding for related projects.

**16. Does the Iowa Great Places designation end after the funding period?**

No. The Iowa Great Places designation remains in effect after the funding period.

Application FAQ

**17. How do I submit a Letter of Intent to apply?**

Lead applicants must submit one Letter of Intent by 11:59 PM Friday, August 29, 2014. Letters of Intent must be submitted online through the Iowa Arts Council's [Slideroom](#) portal.

**18. How is the Letter of Intent to apply different from the full application, and can I submit them together?**

A Letter of Intent to apply is the first step in the application process and is required of all applicants. Letters of Intent are screened by staff to determine eligibility, after which eligible applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal.

**19. May lead applicants submit more than one Letter of Intent?**

No. Each lead applicant may only submit one Letter of Intent to apply.

**20. Do I have to complete the Fiscal Agent Profile section?**

No. Only complete the Fiscal Agent section of the Letter of Intent if you intend to use a fiscal agent for the purpose of accepting and receiving funds. Typically, only individuals and organizations without 501c3 nonprofit status use a fiscal agent.

**21. Can my organization, acting as the lead applicant, submit a Letter of Intent and act as a fiscal agent for another applicant?**

No. As the designated grant recipient, a lead applicant may not serve in the same capacity by acting as the fiscal agent for another application.

**22. Will applicants receive feedback or comments from the Citizen Advisory Board?**

Applicants invited to submit a full application will receive scores and comments following the review of their full application.